

Remarks

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and conform to US practice. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 18 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis. In addition, "use" claims 25 and 26 have been deleted without prejudice to their further prosecution. New claim 27 has been added, and corresponds to deleted claim 25. Applicants believe these amendments to be supported by the claims as originally filed and throughout the specification. Accordingly, applicants believe that no new matter would be added by entry of these amendments.

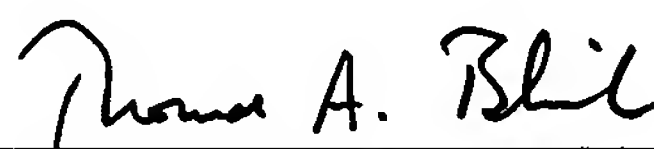
Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

Respectfully submitted,

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